

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00873 071324Z

51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15

EB-07 CU-02 AID-05 /082 W
----- 051610

R 071150Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SSCSTATE WASHDC 3739

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MR

SUBJECT: OULD DADDAH PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: A. NOUAKCHOTT A-59, NOVEMBER 4, 1974 B. NOUAKCHOTT 0795

1. SUMMARY: DURING PRESS INTERVIEW APRIL 30 PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH INDICATED THAT THE PRINCIPLE PRE-OCCUPATION OF MAURITANIA OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS WOULD BE INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND SPECIFICALLY THE CREATION OF "AUTHENTIC MAURITANIAN DEMOCRACY". OTHER SUBJECTS REPORTED SEPTELS.

2. DURING APRIL 30 TOUR D'HORIZON WITH NEWLY ARRIVED AFP CORRESPONDENT (SON OF FRENCH SOCIALIST LEADER MITTERAND), PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH CONFIRMED EMBASSY PREDICTION (REF A) THAT JULY 1 PARTY CONGRESS WILL HAVE PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CREATION ON AN "AUTHENTIC MAURITANIAN DEMOCRACY".

3. PRESIDENT DID NOT EXPLAIN DETAILS OF "AUTHENTIC
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PAGE 02 NOUAKC 00873 071324Z

MAURITANIAN DEMOCRACY" BUT DID INDICATE:

A. THIS NEW "DEMOCRACY" WOULD BE EXERCISED WITHIN THE PARTY.

B. THAT IT WOULD "TRANSCEND THE NOTION OF TRIBALISM AND REGIONALISM".
(PRESIDENT AGAIN LASHED OUT AT
"CERTAIN PERSONALITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR A RECENT MEETING
OF TRIBAL CHARACTER WITHOUT PARTY CONSENT" (REF B).

C. THAT THE END OF TRIBALISM WOULD NOT AFFECT MAURITANIA'S
(AUTHENTIC) RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL TRADITIONS.

D. HYAT IT WOULD "CONSOLIDATE THE CONCEPT OF THE NATION".

4. COMMENT: AT LAST PARTY CONGRESS IN 1971 OULD DADDA
DEDICATED THE NATION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF "ECONOMIC AND
CULTURAL INDEPENDENCE". AS WITH "AUTHENTIC MAURITANIAN
DEMOCRACY" THE CONCEPT WAS NOT FULLY DEFINED NOR, PROBABLY,
FULLY DEVELOPED. HOWEVER, OVER THE INTERVENING FOUR YEARS,
IN THE NAME OF ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE, OULD DADDAH REPUDIATED
FRENCH ECONOMIC ACCORDS IN 1972, CREATED A NATIONAL
CURRENCY IN 1973 AND NATIONALIZED THE GIANT IRON MINE OYMIFERMA#IN 1974.
OULD DADDAH CITES MEMBERSHIP IN THE
ARAB LEAGUE (1973) AND CREATION OF ARABIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM OA(1972) AS
EXAMPLES OF CULTURAL INDEPENDENCE. WHETHER
OR NOT THESE ACTIONS WERE ENVISIONED BY PRESIDENT IN
1971 OR NOT DOES NOT NEGATE FACT THEY FOLLOWED
LOGICALLY AND LEGALLY FROM 1971 PARTY CONGRESS PLATFORM.
EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT OVER NEXT FOUR YEARS OULD DADDAH
(A LAWYER BY TRAINING) WILL DEVELOP SIMILARLY ORDERLY
PROGRAM IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATION'S NEW GOAL.

5. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF "AUTHENTIC MAURITANIAN
DEMOCRACY" MEANS A GREATER VOICE IN PARTY, GOVERNMENT
AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS FOR AN INCREASINGLY ALIENATED YOUTH
OR SIMPLY PROGRAM OF GREATER GOVERNMENT CONTROL,
INDOCTRINATION, AND DISCIPLINE IN THE NAME OF NATION
BUILDING. HANDYSIDE

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.
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PAGE 03 NOUAKC 00873 071324Z

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